

MESSAGE

OF

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the Senate calling for any correspondence between the governments of the United States and Spain relative to the purchase of the island of Cuba.

JANUARY 21, 1859.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of State, in answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 18th instant, requesting the President, if not incompatible with the public interest, "to communicate to the Senate any and all correspondence between the government of the United States and the government of her Catholic Majesty relating to any proposition for the purchase of the island of Cuba, which correspondence has not been furnished to either House of Congress." From this it appears that no such correspondence has taken place which has not already been communicated to Congress. In my late annual message I stated, in reference to the purchase of Cuba that "the publicity which has been given to our former negotiation, on this subject, and the large appropriation which may be required to effect the purpose, render it expedient, before making another attempt to renew the negotiation, that I should lay the whole subject before Congress." I still entertain the same opinion; deeming it highly important, if not indispensable to the success of any negotiation which I might institute for the purpose, that the measure should receive the previous sanction of Congress.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON CITY, January 21, 1859.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 19, 1859.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 18th instant, requesting the President, if not incompatible with the public interest, "to communicate to the Senate any and all correspondence between the government of the United States and the government of her Catholic Majesty relating to any proposition for the purchase of the island of Cuba, which correspondence has not been furnished to either House of Congress," has the honor to report that no such correspondence between the two governments has taken place which has not already been communicated to Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

LEWIS CASS.

The PRESIDENT of the United States.